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RAINFALL TYPES

OF THE

UNITED STATES

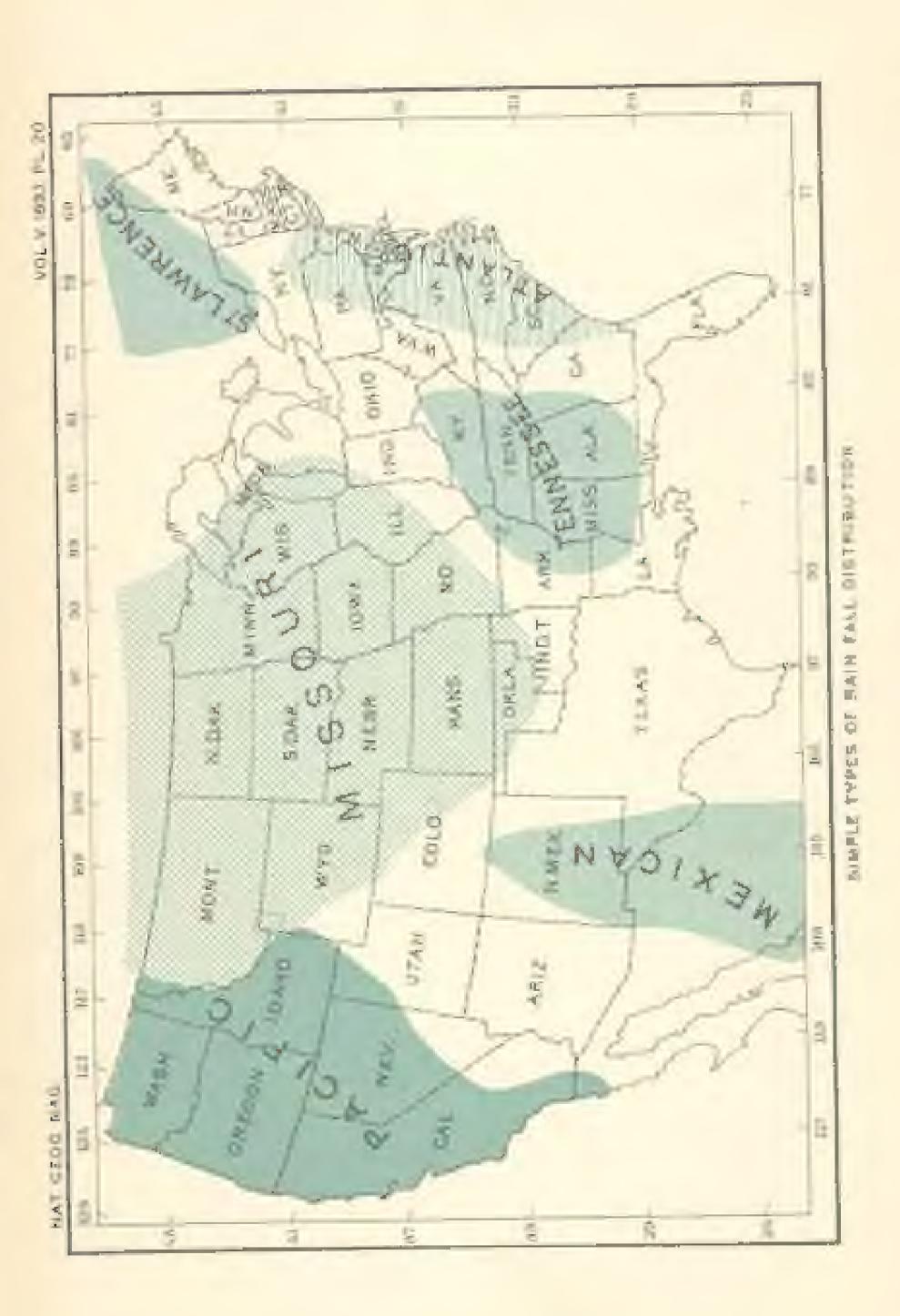
ANNUAL REPORT BY VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL A. W. GREELY



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ANNUAL REPORT BY VAR PRIMITERS.

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In purpose out the announced policy of the National Goacareirs Society with regard to around contributions from its vice-presidents in their respective domains of geographic sticate, it has someodad visable for the vice-president of the "Geography of the Air to place before the Society this year a special paper.

The subject selected is the typical distribution of rainfull in the limited States and contiguous formory, and an attempt has been made to treat the subject to such a manner that it may be a permanent contribution to the physical geography of the United Scates. It goes without eaving that a paper covering twenty minutes' reading cannot so much has detail, but it is hoped that the treatment, while general is yet such as to give desirite and clear ideas on the subject treated.

This paper does not consider the distribution of min from the established of the mean annual precipitation, does not dwell on the variability or macqual amounts in consecutive years, contained the distribution from the standpoint of varying elevations and is about on the question of listabilities with reference to frequency or absorber of excessive raises of period of projects or pro-

dental occurrence. It confines itself to a question of great and sometimes vital importance, to the characteristic distribution of precipitation throughout the year, and, as is believed, presents a successful analysis of the average fluctuations from month to mouth, so that for the first time a satisfactory presentation is possible of all the simple rainfall types and of most of the composite types which obtain over the broad expanse of the infability portions of North America.

The necessity of caroful and scientific study of climatic condihors in connection with prospective saturprises, whether pertairing to agriculture, commerce, navigation, or to special industries, has become obvious the past for years through the open of conspetition. Among early conditions, this of minfall dis-Imbution throughout the year is one of the most important With relation to agriculture, it is essential to know whether proexpitation comes at such someons as to be a benefit or a certificat to the proposed crop. In the mitiation of irrigation enterprises not only are the questions of guarding against extensive and percential rainfacts on one hand and of tioning over temperary drugglets on the other of importance out, further whether the most copous procupitation occurs in such mostle as to allord water of sensore the periods, or the rain crones at such times that it must be storad for many months with consequent less from receptors and evaporation. Similarly this question of distributtion of rain the aghout the year affects most potently other butters interests of importance.

That these questions are of current and practical value is existent to every thoughtfur man, and that their earlier elections than and the publication of results would have been an extended be afit enough be questioned. Take agriculture, for instance, which in custom Colorado is pursued under difficult conditions wherever irrigation is improviousle. Failure of crops very frequently resulted until observation showed that a sengty rainfall in June is the rule in that section and that by planting at a certain season the initialism of facts of the June drought could be initiated.

Nor is the assessity of a definite and a surete determination of the typical forms of anomal possipitation in the castern part of the United States less obvious, since the latest text-book on meteor docy in use in the United States that of Loomis, contains the statement that "Throughout most of the United States sort

of the Bocky mountains the rain is partly candly distributed through the different months of the year, but the rain of suntings is energyders somewhat greater than that if winter, within a racked show."

In reality the whole section of country, about 200 000 square to be in extent dominated by the Tennese type of extend experiences a larger precipitation in winter than a suitamer the excess averaging in northern Alabama and sembers. Neutropically about 10 per cent, in western Georgia and in Tennesees over 21 per cent, and in south-eastern Arkangas and morthern Louisians (rues 40 to 50 per cent (plate 20).

I have issuited out class are the vital importance of a favorable distribution of resaled to covision so tions of the country, where this favoring type of procipitances has proved to be one of the great bases on which resta the national prosperity of this great republic. Allusion is made to the great grain producing sections throughout the enter slesds of the upper Mississippi, the Missouri, the Red river of the North, comprising the Dakolas, Mirrorsota, Kausas, Nebrusha, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconson and Illinois. Over the greater part of this interests area the annual reinfall is very materially less than that of the regions to the endward or couthward, but, most fortunately for the country, about three diths of the minfall for the entire year occurs opportunely through the period when it is most benedicial to creps. from April to July, inclusive. A loss beverable type of eximall, the Mexican or the Saint Lawrence, for example, would render growing of grain unprofitable throughout the whole of this for ored region.

It remains to briefly indicate the few types of sample mostedly the localities to which they refer and to the composite types occurring through the overlapping and interference of simple types.

Composite types must provail whose two simple types are not separated by high passintain ranges and thus gradually clade or mergo into each other. One dividing line, the Bocky mountain range, separates by his erect if not also interp, yet quite sharply and definitive the Missouri type in Montana and Wyondog from the Pacific type in Imaho and Washington.

The term adapte has been applied to those annuall types which can be graphically expressed by a curve with a single base or inflaction. The average monthly amounts pass from the single

maximum to the single minimum through unarterruptedly thranching quantities, and thence rise with unbroken occases to the maximum. The conjunite types are those in which the graphic expression would be shown by two inhections, from a princary maximum through the minimum to a secondary maximum to a secondary minimum.

In goin oil brows it may be said that each simple type of ratatall in the United States apperiains to a single body of water for its resulting precipitation; thus the Pacific type from the guil of Califrom the Pacific occan, the Moxican type from the guil of California, the Tennesses type from the guil of Moxico, and the Atlantic type from the Adantic occas. In the Missouri type, however, two sources are existent—primarily the guil of Moxico, and secondarily, and to a much larger degree than has been made advanced. Hudson bay and the chain of good American lakes.

In treating the fluctuations of gainfall throughout the year it is evident that the analysis of the different months affect somewhat the accuracy of direct inter-comparisons of normal monthly mentals. There fell under my observation takes a curve showing such inter-comparisons which proved raislanding, as it showed a decrease of plan from Lampary to February and an increase from February to March, when in reality, as shown be the average amount daily for each month, the rainfall became more copours from January to February and from February to March.

In this discussion the rule has been followed of obtaining the normal daily rainfall by dividing the normal daily rainfall by dividing the normal yearly rainfall by 355. In like manner the average daily rainfall of Pelevary has been found by using 28.25 as a direct, and the lengest mentils by using 31. In this paper, for the sake of brevity and in order to avoid repetation, it is to be explained that the term "normal daily rainfall" is applied to the nexu determined from the annual precipitation, and that the terms "January rainfall, March minfall," etc., unless otherwise explicitly stated, mean the average daily amount determined for the month in question by the methods above indicated.

States is that which dominates the Proinc worst region; beneve the specific name "Parinc" herein applied. In general terms it may be said to dominate British Columbia, Washington, Idalio, the great interior basin and the entire Pastic water-shed from British tojumbia to Lower California excluding the section desiming into the gulf of tablornia. The charact risks fratures are very heavy procipitation during midwinter and no at u stantal absonce of gain during the late minutes.

The introquency of summer rain is marked in firstish Columbia, and thence southward it becomes smallly more pronounced, passing farcingly the gradations of a single rainless rough in northern California, then two and three to its culmination of four rainless poinths in a considerable part of southern California and twestern Nevada. There is a tendency in the upper half of the San Joaquin calley and thence southward into the section part of San Diene county for rain to assess about a month car is said to remain absent a month later than over the rest of the Pacific coast region, the dry season being from Jano to September, inclusive and being usually unbroken even by a passing shower.

Indeed Nevada appears to share freedom from rain during July, but the authorized rains appear in September or earlier, an her the influence in the southern part of that state of the Mexican type projecting northward. The marked tendency of the winter rains to continue into spring is evident in Washington, whence it shades with dominishing presistency to northern California and perfect services.

It may be comarked that in the Pacific coast regions to accounts of man vary very greatly, according to the topography of the section and the distance from the ocean; so that the interior leptessions, such as the Sacramento, San Josepho and other valleys, particularly those parallel with the soust, have a scanner reinfall than other the coast itself or the Sierm Nevada and other mountain ranges to the eastward.

These variations in the total manual do not however affect the distribution throughout the year which is typically Pacific throughout the whole region.

As in this be expected where the roundly is very small a single month of excessive precipitation occasionally increases the rainfull so as to be inistending. For instance, it is apparent from respection that the greatest normal proripitation is that of December at both San Diege, California and Halleck, Nevada 1 yet uncessive rainfulls of 9,05 inclose in February, 1884 at the former

place, and 400 inches in February, 1870, at the latter, throw the Fobenary daily precipitation slightly above that of December, Of the following examples of the Paritie type, five are drawn from the indexed, viz. Spokane, Washington, records of 12 years; Delaro, California, 15 years; Boise City, I have, 22 years; Prompotery, Plane, 21 years; Hellock, Novala, 21 years; and three from coast stations, viz. Astoria, Oreson, 29 years; San Diegond San Francisco, Uniformia, each 41 years.

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Another simple type of relocation to that which is a previous paper I designated as the Trans-Tuess," from the fact that it dominates extreme sessions Texas beyond the Pecas river. On further investigation it proved to provide in the province of

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